The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
August 10, 2001

Cheyenne Visions opens in the Webber Gallery

By Todd J. Tubutis, Exhibitions

Photo by Diane Alexander White © The Field Museum/ A114025c

Cheyenne Visions began when **Jonathan Haas** of The Field Museum's anthropology department met Gordon Yellowman, a Cheyenne Sundance priest and artist, in Oklahoma in 1995. In an effort to bring the Cheyenne collections at The Field to a broader audience, including the Cheyenne themselves, Gordon teamed up with photographer **Diane Alexander White** to create over 30 stunning photographs of Cheyenne objects from our collections. This exhibition of their collaborative work offers a new perspective on the history and present-day culture of the Cheyenne peoples of Oklahoma and Montana. After *Cheyenne Visions* closes at The Field on March 31, 2002, it will travel to select sites on Cheyenne reservations.

Gordon Yellowman and his family were in Chicago for the opening

(Continued on following page)

FIELD NOTES

August 10-August 17

Staff/Volunteer Events

President's Address
Friday, August 17
Montgomery Ward/Lecture Hall 1
•Last names beginning A-M
9:00-10:00 a.m
•Coffee and Bagels
10:00 a.m.
•Last names beginning N-Z
10:30-11:00 a.m.

Aerobics Class
• Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor
• Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor

Tae Bo Class
• Monday, 5 p.m. Ground Floor

Green Sheet Meeting
• Wednesday, 3 p.m. FP&O Conference Room.

Public/Campus Events

Continuing Exhibitions:

•In Her Hands

•Insects

•Living Colors

•Julie Taymor

© Photo Courtesy of Paola Gianturco and Toby Tuttle

The Natural News *is published by the Human Resources Department.*

Submissions can be emailed to Mark Schmeltzer (mschmeltzer@fmnh.org) Or delivered to him via interoffice mail to the Office of Institutional Advancement. ***The deadline for next week's issue is WEDNESDAY, August 15 at NOON.***

(Cheyenne, continued from front page)

on August 10 where Gordon performed a ceremonial blessing for the exhibition. Vice-President for Museum Affairs Cathleen Costello and Field Museum trustee Faith Smith (Ojibwe) were also present to assist with the opening.

Join me in congratulating the team that brought this wonderful exhibition to fruition, and please take the opportunity to learn more about Cheyenne culture in the Webber Gallery before Cheyenne Visions closes.

***Exhibitions*:**
Eric Manabat, 3D design
David Quednau, 2D design
Theresa Biancheri, developer
Paul Brunsvold, production supervisor
Pam Gaible, mount shop supervisor
Tim Antenucci
Brian Dettmer
Chris Gerdes
Jennifer Jackson
Steve Lalik
Robert McLennan
David Mendez
Zach Smith
Bob Tolnai
Ari Wagner

Anthropology
Elisa Aguilar-Kutza
Mavis Blacker
Martina Hough
Holly Lundberg
Ruth Norton
Christine Taylor
Laura Lepcsei
Alison Whyte

***Library*:**
Nina Cummings

Natural Use

Help Conserve Energy EVERY Day!

In response to this week's message from **Lou French**, requesting a temporary reduction in energy use, we'd like to remind everybody that this should be a daily consideration. Energy conservation can be practiced by everybody by turning off a few switches in offices, labs, collection areas and work shops. And, as Lou emphasizes, please focus on lights and equipment that aren't being used, "that can be turned off WITHOUT COMPROMISING SAFETY OR ABILITY TO WORK."

Natural Use is written by members of the Museum's recycling committee. Turn to the recycling logo each week to find items available for reuse in the Museum, to learn some simple things you can do to make our planet healthier, and to discover what the Museum is doing to lessen its environmental impact and to educate the community it serves. Also, if you would like to announce any recyclable items you or your department wished to give away, please send the information to mschmeltzer@fieldmuseum.org.

A Message from Soldier Field Parking regarding Regarding BEARS GAME Parking

On the dates listed below, all monthly hang tags, daily employee coupons and non-event day coupons WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED in any Soldier Field lots.

DATE **TIME**

9/16/01 **3:15PM**
All museum campus staff to park in the Alder Planetarium Lot. Parking fee will be $7.75 till 11:00AM.

9/23/01 **12:00PM**
All museum campus staff to park in the Adler Planetarium Lot. Parking fee will be $15.00.

10/14/01 **12:00PM**
All museum campus staff to park in the Adler Planetarium Lot. Parking fee will be $15.00.

10/28/01 **12:00PM**
All museum campus staff to park in the Adler Planetarium Lot. Parking fee will be $15.00.

11/04/01 **12:00PM**
All museum campus staff to park in the Adler Planetarium Lot. Parking fee will be $15.00

11/11/01 **12:00PM**
All museum campus staff to park in the Adler Planetarium Lot. Parking fee will be $15.00

12/02/01 **12:00PM**
All museum campus staff to park in the Adler Planetarium Lot. Parking fee will be $15.00

12/16/01 **12:00PM**
All museum campus staff to park in the Adler Planetarium Lot. Parking fee will be $15.00

On dates listed below, all monthly hang tags, daily employee coupons and non-event day coupons WILL BE ACCEPTED in the Planetarium Lot ONLY. These passes will be accepted until 3:00PM ONLY.

DATE **TIME**

8/25/01 **7:00PM**
Staff needs to be out of the lot by 6:00PM

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Public Services Office at extension 7911.

Thank You!

Diane White,
Public Services

For complete 2001 Chicago Bears schedule and results, please visit:
http://www.chicagobears.com/gameday/schedule.cfm

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Field Museum Represented at Herpetology Conferences

On 27-31 July 2001, **Ana Carnaval**, **Bob Inger**, **Maureen Kearney**, **Alan Resetar**, and **Harold Voris** from the Zoology Department attended the annual meetings of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR) and the Herpetologists' League (HL) at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI).

Presentations included: Ana Carnaval on amphibian population genetics in Brazil; Bob Inger on amphibian population declines in Asia; Maureen Kearney on the morphology and systematics of amphisbaenians; Alan Resetar on cricket frog declines in the Midwestern U.S.; and Harold Voris on crab-eating snakes (with Daryl Karns and Thomas Goodwin), feeding behaviors of homalopsine snakes (with Bruce Jayne and Peter Ng), and Pleistocene sea levels and frog distributions in Southeast Asia. Maureen Kearney was a judge in the Herpetologists' League best graduate student paper competition and was elected to the Executive Council of the Herpetologists' League. Field Museum's 2001 Parker/Gentry Award recipient, Michael Lannoo, made two presentations. Field Associates **Sherif M. Baha el Din** and **John Murphy** and volunteer **Tom Anton** also attended.

Anthropology Receives Museum Loan Network Grant

The Department of Anthropology is pleased to announce that it received a grant of $17,880 from the Museum Loan Network to conduct a systematic inventory, archives synthesis, and photo-documentation of the invaluable J. Eric S. Thompson Collection from Belize and Guatemala. The project is intended to make this well-contextualized collection more widely accessible to interested museums, scholars, and members of the general public. Sir John Eric Sidney Thompson (1898 - 1975) held the position of Curator of Mexican and South American Ethnology at The Field Museum from 1926 to 1935. During that time, he led five expeditions to British Honduras (now Belize) to collect pre-Classic and Classic Maya archaeological as well as modern Mayan ethnographic materials. This is the third consecutive successful Museum Loan Network Grant obtained by Anthropology, and special thanks are due to the Principal Investigators, **Isabel Tovar-Castro**, **Steve Nash**, and **Gary Feinman**.

Busy summer for Bird and Mammal Divisions in the Albertine Rift of Africa

The Bird and Mammal Divisions continue their collaborations in Albertine Rift countries with MacArthur Foundation Funding. Many of you may already have met **Prince Kaleme**, a mammalogist from Centre de Recherche en Sciences Naturelles (CRSN, Lwiro, Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo) and **Sarah Nachuha** of Islamic and Makerere Universities (Mbale and Kampala, Uganda). Both spent the summer in Chicago working in the collections on studies of Albertine Rift birds and mammals.

Assistant curator of Birds, **John Bates**, Laboratory technician **Jeffrey Hunt** and Illinois State University graduate student **Michael Hundorf** recently returned from a month in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. There, they were part of the first year of a four-year MacArthur-sponsored training course at CSRN. The course included training for nine participants on studying birds and small mammals, but also included botany, hydrobiology, and water chemistry sections taught by Congolese colleagues. Field work was conducted on Idjwi Island in Lake Kivu. Now called the "Programme Biodiversité des Ecosystémes Aquatiques et Terrestres dans le Rift Albertin (PBEATRA)," this is a collaboration for capacity-building between The Field Museum and the three Congolese insitutions: CRSN, the Centre de Recherche Hydrobiologique (CRH, Uvira), and the Institut Congolais pour la Conservacion de la Nature (ICCN).

Snails and Clams Galore

Associate Curator **Rüdiger Bieler** (Zoology) and Research Associate (and AMNH curator) **Paula Mikkelsen** recently returned from an intensive dredging expedition off the Florida Keys. Supported by a grant from the Comer Research and Education Foundation, they had chartered Mote Marine Laboratory's Research Vessel *Eugenie Clark,* allowing them to sample sediments (with snails and clams!) from soft and hard bottoms off the Keys to depths of 750 feet.

Combined with collecting by snorkeling, scuba, and bottom grabs from small boats in shallower water, this "cruise" added 88 new stations (and approximately 3,500 museum lots!) and completed six of the planned seven shallow-to deep-water transects, each about 16 nautical miles in length and designed to allow the comparative study of molluscan diversity patterns along southernmost Florida.

The material still requires massive sorting and identification efforts, but several surprises were readily recognizable when the dredges came up from the deep—this trip again resulted in numerous new species records for the United States and at least two species new to science.

Rüdiger and Paula were joined for parts of the work by their PEET students Isabella Kappner (FMNH/UIC) and Louise Crowley (AMNH/CUNY), by Research Associate Tim Collins (FIU), former postdoc Tim Rawlings (now NHM London), and a colleague and benthic ecologist from Sarasota's Mote Marine Laboratory, Jim Culter. Scuba diving is an essential part of the fieldwork, and all participants are certified divers (Isabella recently completed her Rescue Diver certification and is now enrolled in a Dive Master course; Rüdiger is a certified Dive Master and has recently added Nitrox diving to his underwater toolkit).

Rüdiger and Paula's work in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary attracted substantial media coverage; in addition to a recent article in Chicago Tribune's Metro section, the molluscan collecting efforts off the Keys made the cover of the *Key West Citizen* (the daily newspaper of the Florida Keys), and their work will be featured in an upcoming video production by Mote Marine Lab.

Zoology staff, Insects Division, (from L to R) Philip Parrillo, Daniel Summers, Alfred F. Newton, and Margaret Thayer unload a shipment of insects.

More Beetles at Field Museum

By Alfred F. Newton, Associate Curator, Zoology, Insects Division

Photos © The Field Museum, by John Weinstein.

Two large insect collections, containing mostly beetles, arrived this summer and represent significant additions to the Museum's already world-class collections.

The Borys Malkin insect collection arrived on July 25 in five large crates containing more than 350 insect boxes. It includes about 95,000 pinned insects, representing nearly 4,000 named species from nearly all beetle families, plus a few other insects or arthropods. Nearly all are from central Europe, the Mediterranean countries and the Canary Islands. We estimate it includes more than 1,000 species not currently in our collection, and thus is a significant addition to our already large beetle collection of around three million specimens. This acquisition was made possible by the Zoology Department's Marshall Field Fund, for which we are very grateful.

Mr. Malkin is now 83 years old, retired, and living in Warsaw (where he has been based since about 1960) with his wife Helena. He is mainly an ethnologist by profession, and spent most of his long career studying indigenous peoples in South America and many other places in the world. A Web site (unfortunately for most of us with all text in Polish) includes some biographical information and a summary of his work, with photo gallery and bibliography (including filmography of documentary films): http://www.mundolatino.pl/malkin/

Beetle-collecting was mainly a sideline during those studies, although he did publish a few papers on insects in the 1940s and 1950s. Originally from what is now part of Russia, he received his early education in Poland, but moved to the United States near the start of the Second World War and remained here for most of the period 1940-1960 before returning to Warsaw and marrying. During his time in the United States he was a close associate of several curators in the Field Museum's Division of Insects (especially the late Henry Dybas, but also Rupert Wenzel and Harry Nelson, among others). His earlier collections of insects, other animals, and ethnographic materials from North and South America and elsewhere were distributed to The Field Museum and other institutions many years ago. Many new insect species have been described by others based on these specimens, especially those from very isolated parts of the Amazon basin where he lived with various Indian tribes. The collection we just received is from his later years and is mainly from Poland or from "vacation" travels through much of the Mediterranean region and the Canary Islands in the past 40 years.

The other significant addition is the main part of the **David Kistner** collection. Dr. Kistner is Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences at California State University in Chico, and a lifetime Research Associate in Insects at Field Museum since the 1960's. His association with The Field Museum goes back still further, to his undergraduate and graduate days at the University of Chicago in the 1950s when he volunteered in the Division of Insects and was a close associate of curators Rupert Wenzel and Henry Dybas and resident Associate Charles Seevers. He is the world's leading authority on the behavior and classification of the rove beetles (Staphylinidae) associated with termites and ants, and occasionally works on flies or other arthropods with similar habits (such animals are called termitophiles and myrmecophiles). During more than 40 years of active field work throughout the world, he and his wife Alzada (sometimes joined by their daughters) have collected more of these unusual animals than everyone else in the world combined. (The years of African field work are entertainingly described in Alzada Kistner's book, "An Affair with Africa", available in the Museum Store.)

Organizing the shipment by family

Philip Parrillo, Daniel Summers, Alfred F. Newton, and Margaret Thayer display beetles from a newly-arrives collection.

Dr. Kistner has long indicated his intention of donating his research collection, library, and notes to The Field Museum, and has been gradually shipping small parts of his collection to us each year. He continues to work actively on and publish papers about these unusual insects at his home, and retains part of his collection there for this purpose, but this summer he delivered the bulk of the collection to us. This includes about 35,000 pinned insects (including types of more than 120 new species he has described himself) and 15,000 slides, among other material. The size and uniqueness of this collection make it a very significant addition to the Museum's staphylinid collection, already the largest in the world at ca. 750,000 specimens and one of the most actively used parts of the museum's collections. The busy staphylinid collection will see a further increase in activity and growth beginning in January 2002, when Margaret Thayer and Al Newton's recently-funded NSF-PEET project on southern hemisphere rove beetles gets underway (see Natural News, June 15).

TANZANIA COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(COSTECH)

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Ref. No. **CST/RA 47/1552/2001**

9th July 2001

Mr. John McCarter
President
Field Museum of Natural History
1400 S. Lake Shore Drive
CHICAGO
Illinois 60605
United States of America

Dear Mr. McCarter

RE: TANZANIAN MAMMAL KEY

We have recently received the CDROM version of the *Tanzania Mammal Key* whose more dynamic version is represented in your website. The key is undoubtedly an important achievement of your scientists who have been coming to Tanzania to research on *Biogeography of Eastern Arc Mammals* over the past decade.

We wish to thank the Field Museum for its part in supporting the research that led to the production of the Tanzanian Mammal Key. The innovative approach provided by the tool in aiding biologists within Tanzania in the identification of our unique heritage of mammals is very commendable. On a broad level, we welcome the Field Museum contributions in this and other efforts in research and conservation programmes of Tanzania.

It is our hope that you will support further collaborative projects in this and other related areas.

Yours Sincerely,

pp Prof. Col. Yadon M. Kohi
for: Director General

Baker's Corner

By Paul Baker

At Muscatine, Iowa, the Mississippi River runs east-west. Downstream from the town is the sharpest turn that the watercourse takes in its 2,350 mile run to the Gulf of Mexico. Over thousands of years the Mississippi and its tributaries have carried soil and dissolved particles from one part of the continent and deposited them in another part of the continent. The sharp bend that the river has negotiated for thousands of years at Muscatine causes a lot of suspended material to drop out forming thick beds of sands, gravels and other soils.

At some point in time the river shifted uneasily in its bed and moved further east—away from the towering bluffs that line the upper flood plain region of the waterway. This created a large island of fertile and fecund land surrounded by sloughs and inhabited by farmers. "The Island," although not an island anymore, is where I'll be headed this weekend to seek out the nationally famous "Muscatine Melons" and other produce. I grew up in bike range of the truck farms that line the slough zone of the area and, like others, I took for granted the accessibility of the marvelously flavored fruits.

Sweet corn, cantaloupe, potatoes, and tomatoes all have a princely position at nearby markets but it's the watermelon that keeps visitors from near and far coming back to this little 23,000-inhabitant town. Muscatine melons, long known as the juiciest and sweetest, are most plentiful during the late summer months.

Watermelon is thought to have originated in the Kalahari Desert of Africa. The first recorded watermelon harvest occurred nearly 5,000 years ago in Egypt and is depicted in Egyptian hieroglyphics on the walls of their ancient buildings. Watermelons were often placed in the burial tombs of kings to nourish them in the afterlife.

From Egypt, it was a natural for planting around the Mediterranean Sea and eastward into China where its use is recorded in the 10th century and where its production numbers are first in the world. By the 13th century the rest of Europe was enjoying it, seeds and all. The United States is fourth in world production, raising them in forty-four states.

I've seen watermelons in as many sizes, shapes, and colors as there are roadside stands offering them. The shapes vary from round to oblong, with colors ranging from light green to almost black. Outside, the fruit skin color might be solid, striped, or marbled while the edible portion of the flesh can be yellow, pink, pinkred, bright red, or deep red. And (thank Heaven) we've got the additional choice of seeded vs. seedless varieties. Actually, "seedless" usually includes a bunch of the "seeds" are thin, whitish, edible structures and there may be a few normal appearing seeds. Whether you grow your own or purchase them from a suntanned farmer, the variety names make good reading, too. For the "red" team: Madera, Fiesta, Oasis, Royal Sweet, Starbright, Crimson Sweet, Summer Festival, Royal Charleston and Sugar Baby. For the "yellow" team: Sunshine, Yellow Baby, Yellow Doll and Golden Crown. If it's seedless you need, try: Hybrid 313, Triple Sweet, King of Hearts, Queen of Hearts, Crimson Trio, Scarlet Trio or Tiffany.

What about choosing one? Look the watermelon over to check for dents, cuts or bruises. Choose a firm, symmetrical one that feels too heavy for its size. Remember, optimum watermelons are 92% water and a gallon of water weighs 8.3 pounds. Examine the underside where it sat on the ground. If it's ripe there should be a creamy yellow spot with no fungus or soft spots. Thumping is derigeur although most city-slickers haven't got the faintest idea of what a watermelon seismic echo should sound like.

Mark Twain, who lived in Muscatine in 1854, once wrote: "I remember Muscatine for its summer sunsets. I have never seen any on either side of the ocean that equaled them." He probably thumped a few melons, too.

Schmidt's Market
5900 Grandview Ave
Muscatine, IA 52761
Phone: 2636331 or 2630324
Fax: 2633017

P.S. On Wednesday, August 8, 2001, Die Bier Stube of Frankfort, Illinois, burned to the ground. Memorial services were held on the spot.

BOOKWMN SPEAKS

By Paula Ramos

What do I have in common with The Duke of Devonshire, Bill Blass, Keith Richards, and the Rothchilds? A grand passion for books; stacks of them everywhere; wall to wall books to read and collect! The world belongs to those who read; those who are readers see the all of the possibilities in life. Owning a personal library, no matter what its size, is worth a thousand times more than the initial price of the volumes; from the moment you place the books on your shelves.

At Home With Books-How Booklovers Live with and Care for Their Libraries by Estelle Ellis, Caroline Seebohm and Christopher Simon Sykes inspires modern day bibliophiles to do more than just read their books. With hundreds of full color photographs you will learn how to tame your book tiger by organizing and displaying your treasures in artful and unique ways that reflect your style and the creativity that you have absorbed from reading all of those books. As Mark Twain phrased it, "In a good bookroom , you feel in some way that you are absorbing the wisdom contained in all the books—through your skin, without even opening them." The Duke of Devonshire and Loren and Frances Rothschild are the caretakers of just these very kinds of "bookrooms"; opulent, inviting and offering the intellectual a haven for reading and contemplation. The bonus found in this text; you need not be wealthy to implement many of the library plans presented.

This is a resource book that not only encourages using your volumes as art; it reveals practical solutions, from hundreds of sources, on how you, your family and friends can benefit most from your library. Tips on how to store books, how to keep them safe during moving, advice on organizing and categorizing, how to edit your library and valuable information on how to care for, preserve and restore rare books. Diverse suggestions from forty book lovers fill this over-sized hybrid of a coffee table book-business listing directory. Along with color photos of their personal reading rooms, these collectors offer pointers on how to arrange comfortable reading areas that feature perfect lighting and you also receive instruction how to choose the shelving that is best suited to your needs and whims. This is simply the most beautiful book on books that has ever been published.

One of my favorite, featured libraries in *At Home With Books* is the one belonging to Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones. "After a life on the road, reading anchors me", says Mr. Richards. He personally oversaw every detail of the building of his octagon shaped, high ceiling, mahogany lined library. I gained a new perspective on Keith when I read this, "When you are growing up, there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully—the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you. The public library is a great equalizer. As a child you get to feel all these books are yours." KR has always read to his children and they have inherited his love of nineteenth century literature. However, they may not enter his library while he is reading, without his permission; in "the intimate, moody atmosphere of his private cave for reading, for a few moments the Rolling Stone gathers moss."

Bill Blass, fashion icon and trustee of the New York City Library for the past ten years, has a library in every room of both of his residences. "Books change peoples lives," and he stood behind that thought with a $10 million donation to the main library in the Big Apple! "Books at home belonged to fathers and grandfathers, but the public library was were you found books you wanted to read. At the height of the Depression a young person didn't own a lot of books. A library card was a passport to the outside world." Not only is he generous with his community but he also shops for books for his friends and his personal library twice a week! Stop by the Siragusa office and leaf though this book for helpful book information and home library inspiration.

"You can't want to be a book collector; you are born that way. Driven!"—Marvin Sackner